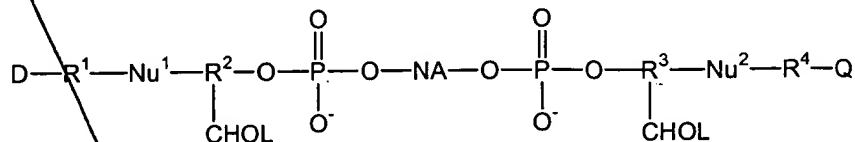


IN THE CLAIMS

A1

1. (Amended) A compound having the formula:



wherein,

CHOL is a cholesterol derivative;

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are linker moieties independently selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted alkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl;

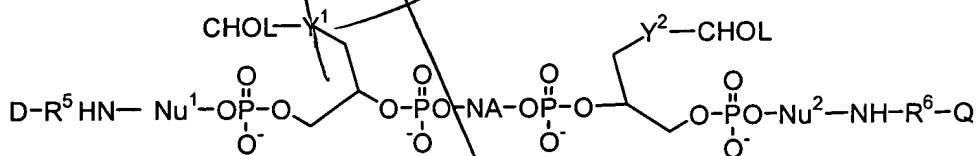
Nu^1 and Nu^2 are members independently selected from the group consisting of nucleotide residues and nucleoside residues;

NA is a nucleic acid sequence;

D is a donor of light energy; and

Q is a quencher of light energy.

2. (Amended) A compound having the structure:



wherein,

NA is a nucleic acid sequence;

Nu^1 and Nu^2 are members independently selected from the group consisting of nucleotide residues and nucleoside residues;

Y^1 and Y^2 are linking groups independently selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted alkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl;